

## BOOK REVIEWS.

THE RHYNCHOPHORA OR WEEVILS OF NORTHEASTERN AMERICA. By W. S. Blatchley and C. W. Leng.

This important work is the first general treatment of any considerable portion of the Rhynchophora of North America for forty years and is even more comprehensive than that of LeConte and Horn for the chosen district. Its possession should remove from the collector of eastern North America any temptation to throw away or even neglect his captures of this suborder.

In this work of 682 pages the coleopterist will find efficient keys to the families, tribes, genera, and species known to occur east of the Mississippi River. Full descriptions of 1,084 species are given. It is illustrated by 155 very good figures, 21 of which, together with about 7 pages of text, are devoted to the explanation of the structures used in the classification. Four new genera, 74 new species and 5 new varieties, the majority of them from Indiana and Florida, are described by the pen of the senior author.

The general scheme of the "Coleoptera of Indiana" has been followed throughout the text, with the addition of seven pages of Bibliography and a 3-page index to the plants mentioned in the generous notes on distribution, occurrence and habits that follow the description of each species. The classification used is mainly that of LeConte and Horn, modified where necessary by the results of recent studies in the suborder.

The amount of work represented by this volume can better be appreciated after reading the Introduction. In all cases where possible the descriptions have been written from the actual specimens themselves and in connection with the original descriptions, while the senior author has visited the principal museums and many public and private collections in the East to compare doubtful specimens with the types. It is very evident that the authors have spared no efforts to present accurate determinations and careful descriptions, and the results of their labors should stimulate the study of this somewhat neglected group of beetles.

We hope that the coöperation by which the scope and usefulness of this work has been increased will not escape the appreciation of

its students, for each author has sacrificed his partly completed work to this end. No such example of the subordination of self to the interests of science has been placed before the American Coleopterists since the days of LeConte and Horn.

C. A. FROST.

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It is with great regret that we have to record the passing of Otto Heidemann, who died on November 17, 1916, at the age of seventy-three. For many years he has been in charge of the Hemiptera in the United States National Museum, faithfully performing the arduous routine duties of the position, and yet finding time to publish a considerable number of contributions to the literature of his specialty. More than this, he was always ready to share his great knowledge of the Hemiptera with all who sought his advice, and it can safely be said that a large part of the hemipterological work published in America since the days of Uhler has been based upon his store of information, avowedly or not. Thoroughness in his work, kindness in his relations with others, and self effacement when his own interests were at stake went to make up a rare nature which can ill be spared.

Through the kindness of Mr. John Howard Paine we are enabled to present in this issue a very excellent and characteristic portrait of Mr. Heidemann.

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